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THE SETTLEMENT OF ILLINOIS, 1778-1830. By ARTHUR CLINTON BOGGESS, Ph. D., Professor of History and Political Science in Pacific University, &c., Chicago Historical Society's Collection, Vol. V, Chicago. Published by the Society, 1908, pp. 266, with index and maps.

Though published subsequently, this book was prepared before the publication of Professor Alvord's volume on the Cahokia Records. No use was therefore made of that valuable collection. Professor Boggess has made a very careful study of the, ofttimes obscure, subject of the settlement of Illinois between 1778 and 1835 including the time that the country was included in the Virginia domain. Every page shows in its notes the thoroughness with which his work has been done. Several maps, including one of the Illinois country in 1796, and a full bibliography of works consulted add to the usefulness of the book.

GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN WASHINGTON. By Claude Halstead Van Tyne and Waldo Gifford Leland. Second edition Revised and Enlarged by W. G. Leland, Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1907, pp. xiii, 327.

This very useful work has been found of such service to historical students that a second edition has been called for. It has been enlarged and revised as fully as the somewhat chaotic condition of the Washington records and the numerous obstacles to research would admit. It is a consummation devoutly to be wished that the time shall be not far distant when a great hall of records will exist at the National Capital, which will contain most of the immense mass of valuable records which are in the various departments.

The Library of Congress with its admirable facilities and wise liberality is, of course, an exception and is unsurpassed as a place for student work.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY, 1907-1908. To which is appended the Fifth Annual Report of the State Librarian. Richmond, Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1908, pp. 154.

A CALENDAR OF LEGISLATIVE PETITIONS, arranged by counties, Accomac—Bedford. Special report of the Department of Archives and History. H. J. Eckenrode, Archivist.

A TRIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA. Special report of the Department of Bibliography. William Clayton Torrence, Bibliographer.

It would be pleasant, if space permitted, to tell of the good work the State Library, strictly as a library, is doing. The rapidly increasing success of the travelling libraries, the large attendance of readers at the

central library, the issue of most useful catalogues of special classes of books, the large number of magazines and newspapers on file and the other ways in which the library is living up to modern demands are well told by the Librarian.

Great as has been the success of the library with the increased means and facilities for work of recent years, it is not by any means what its Board and Librarian desire it to be, and what the Legislature should enable it to be. A good Library is a costly thing and our Legislators should recognize that this Library is the only one in the State in a position to ask large sums of money from the public. Thousands of dollars could be profitably spent every year, for a number of years to come, in the purchase of books. The historical student (and such students throughout Virginia can use the Library) is especially desirous that the division of history should be filled and kept abreast of the time with every historical work of value published.

Complete sets of the English State Papers, of every class, should be bought as should be the collections and publications of the numerous societies which are publishing so much of inestimable value. If the Legislature will give the money, the Library is fully qualified to select and make the best use of the books.

It is of the divisions of the Library more strictly associated with Virginia history that it is desired to write here.

For some years past the arranging and indexing of the great mass of records now in the custody of the Library Board has been in progress, under the efficient charge of Dr. Eckenrode. Every facility possible is given to those who desire to examine the original documents; but the room in which the papers are kept is much overcrowded and utterly unsuitable for the purpose. New and proper quarters for the Manuscript Department is one of the things the next Legislature should consider. Not only does the great collection of public records now in the Library require more room, but if such room were furnished the personal property assessment books from 1782 to within recent years, probably comprising some ten thousand volumes, could be arranged and made accessible.

These books which are now in boxes in various places of storage would furnish an unsurpassed amount of information in regard to the economic history of the State.

Probably the most valuable collection of manuscripts in the Library is what is known as "The Legislative Papers." These comprised, originally, all of the papers submitted to the Legislature, petitions, letters, executive communications, &c., &c., together with many of the routine documents of the session's work. These papers had been kept together by sessions; but a former librarian probably as an *argumentum ad hominem* to the legislator (who, finding something from his own county, might be induced to take more interest in the records) directed

that all of the petitions should be taken and arranged and indexed separately. There has been a difference of opinion as to the advisability of separating the sessions papers, and some think it would have been better to preserve their unity, and calendar all of one session together.

But there is no doubt about the need for beginning a calendar, and none whatever about the manner in which the one just published, has been done. Only those who are acquainted with the original petitions, many of them in bad condition and difficult to read, can appreciate Dr. Eckenrode's most successful work. He has studied the contents of each paper and given its substance in a brief abstract in a manner worthy of high commendation.

Space will not allow a discussion of the contents of the Calendar. It embraces petitions on almost every imaginable subject on which individuals or groups of people could approach a Legislature. The full index renders its examination easy.

While one division of the Library was attending to our manuscript records, another was taking up the work of listing and describing what has been printed in and about Virginia. This was pioneer work and is so essential to an understanding of our past that it is surprising that it should not have been sooner done. The expense and labor required have no doubt deterred individual students.

The selection of a bibliographer has proved a happy one. Though Mr. Torrence had not had experience in bibliographical work previously to coming to the State Library, it is evident that his deep interest in Virginia history and hard study have qualified him to do a piece of work which has received strong praise from learned and acute critics.

The bibliographer visited most of the large libraries in the eastern portion of the United States and made careful studies of every work prior to 1776, which related to Virginia. The result, now presented, is an admirable bibliography of Colonial Virginia from 1608 to 1753, inclusive. The bibliographical and historical comments are very interesting, and this is especially the case in those on early printing in Virginia and on the newspapers.

One should be a specialist in bibliography to do full justice to Mr. Torrence's work, but all students of Virginia history can appreciate the great help the "Bibliography of Colonial Virginia" is to them, and are duly grateful to the library and the bibliographer.

By a fire at the printers the only copy for titles between 1753 and 1776 was destroyed; but it is hoped that the work of replacing and publishing these will be promptly taken in hand.